

# The Shorebird Yardstick

Learning the sizes of shorebirds relative to each other can be an important tool to help with tricky IDs! See how shorebirds measure up in this handy guide.



Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* © Tony Dvorak / Macaulay Library

The **Cornell** Lab  of Ornithology  
**Bird Academy**

Learn more in the self-paced, online course,  
**Be a Better Birder: Shorebird Identification**



# Shorebird Yardstick

Length measured bill to tail



SOLITARY SANDPIPER



WANDERING TATTLER



WILLET



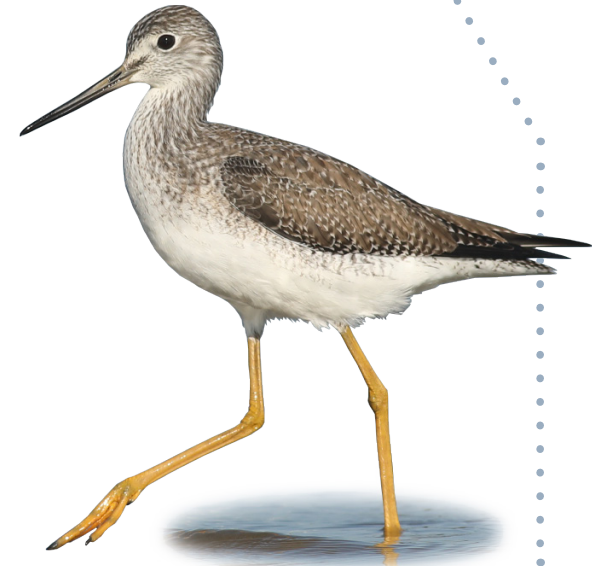
SPOTTED SANDPIPER



LESSER YELLOWLEGS



STILT SANDPIPER



GREATER YELLOWLEGS  
(~36 cm, 14 in)



Semipalmated Plover  
(~18 cm, 7 in)

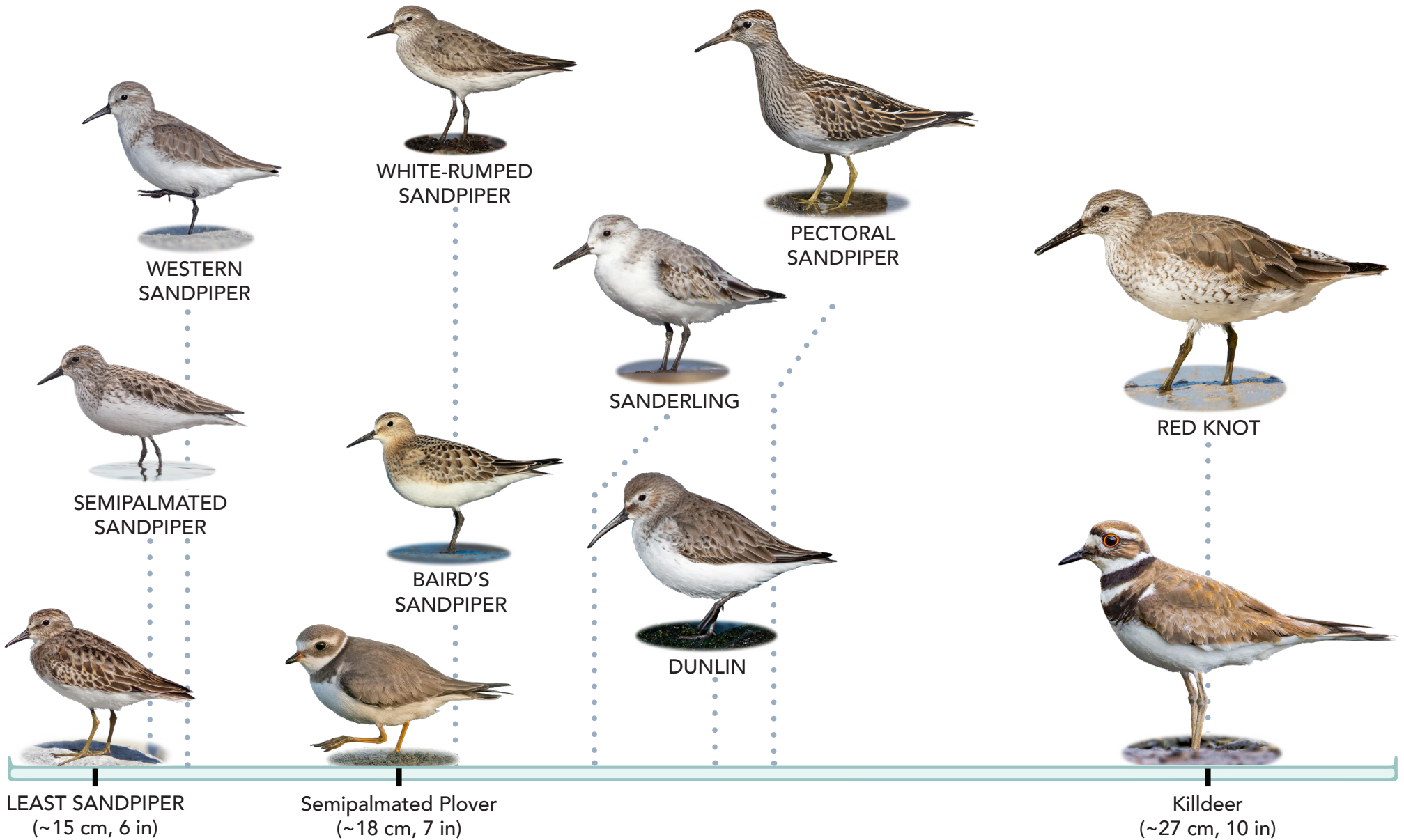


Killdeer  
(~27 cm, 10 in)

## TRINGAS, NONBREEDING

# Shorebird Yardstick

Length measured bill to tail

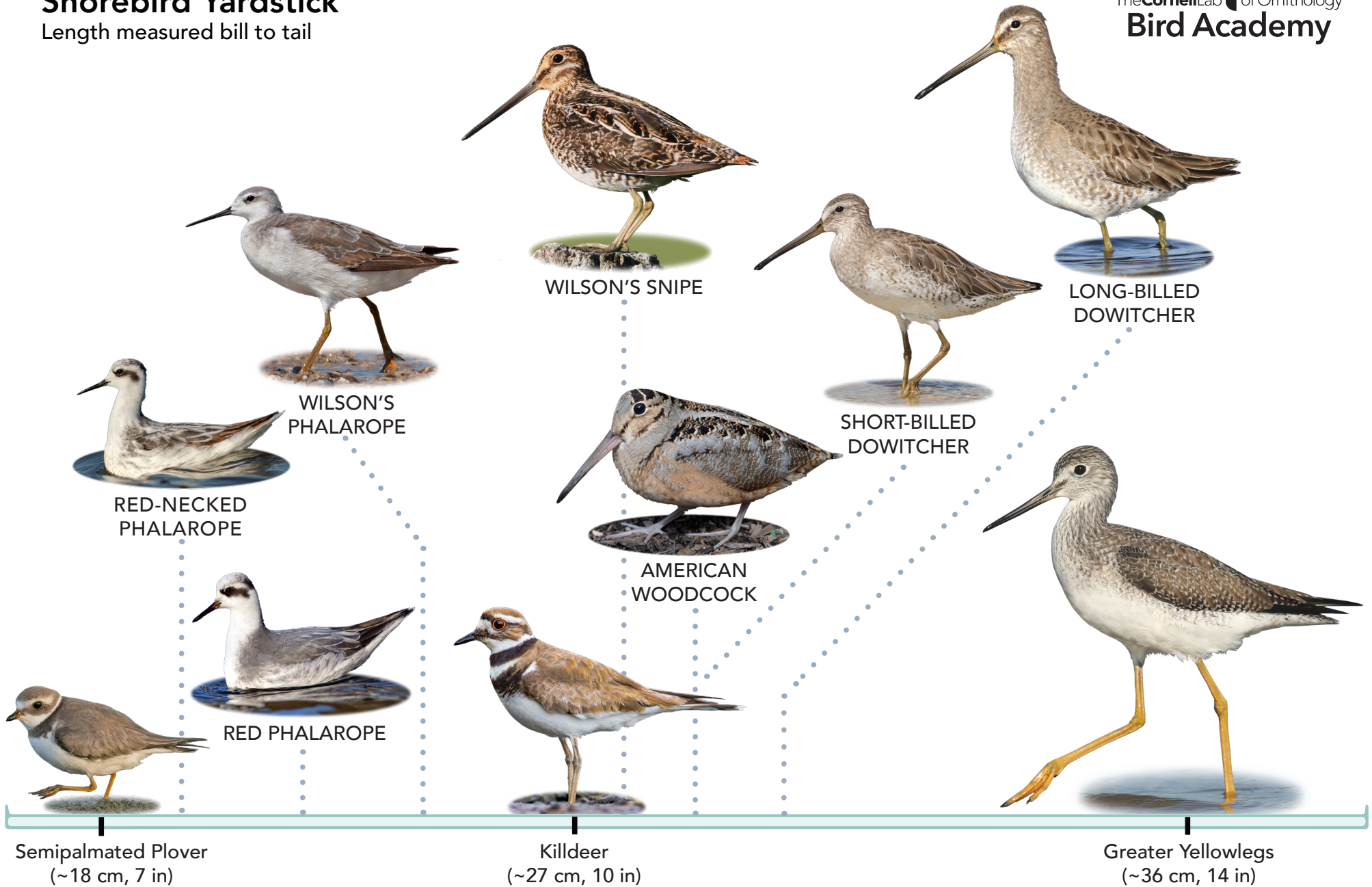


## PEEPS, NONBREEDING

All photos Macaulay Library. Photo credits L-R: Least Sandpiper: Mark R. Johnson/ML365566021; Semipalmated Sandpiper: Simon Boivin/ML239652311; Western Sandpiper: Brendan Klick/ML79366851; Semipalmated Plover: Terence Alexander/ML385395461; Baird's Sandpiper: Dorian Anderson/ML261225241; White-rumped Sandpiper: Dan Burton/ML365566021; Sanderling: Nathan Tea/ML181954591; Dunlin: Mason Maron/ML206944141; Pectoral Sandpiper: Gordon Johnston/ML368534461; Red Knot: Connor Cochrane/ML391553241; Killdeer: Mason Maron/ML287345321

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Length measured bill to tail

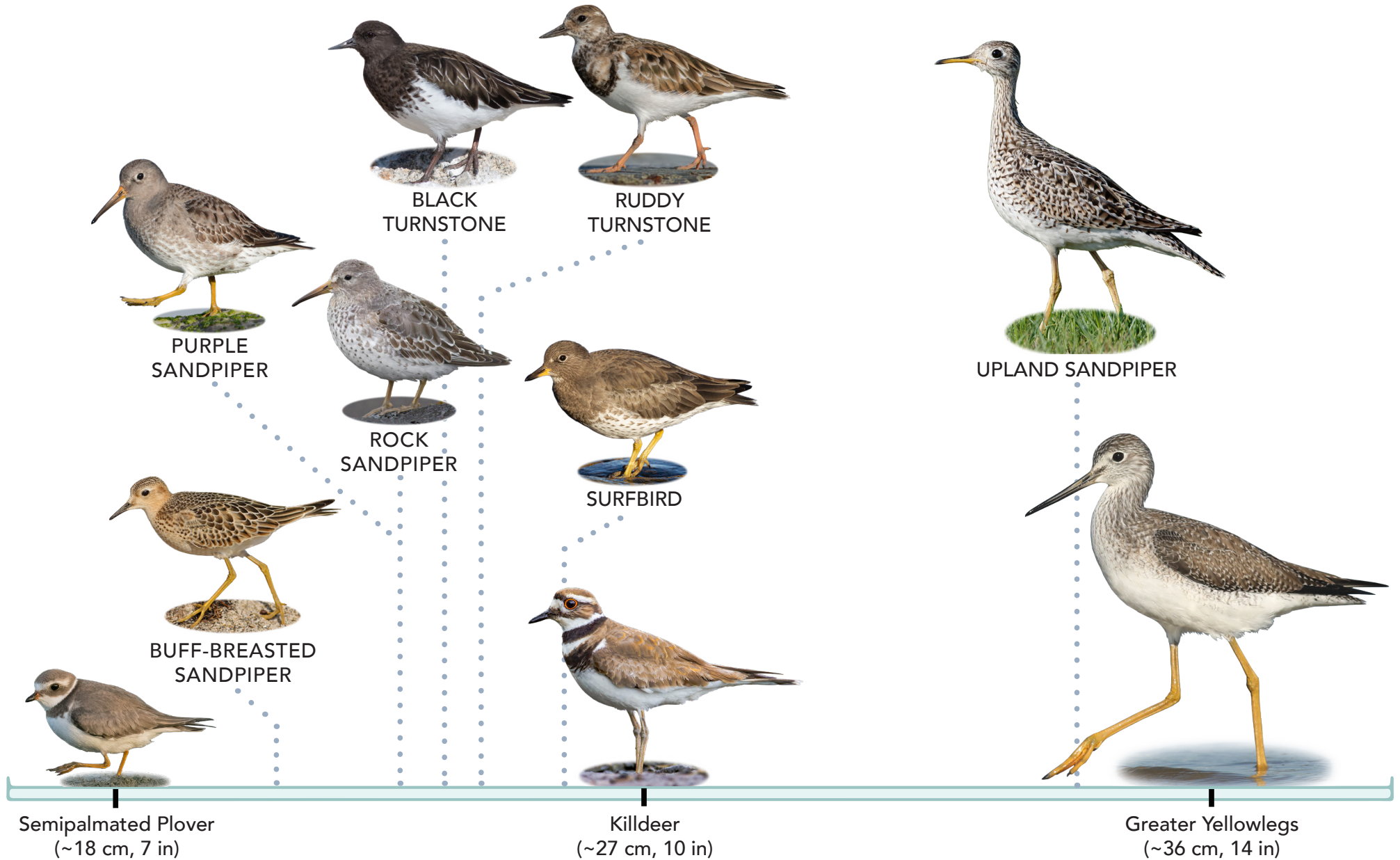


## SNIBE-TYPES & PHALAROPES, NONBREEDING

All photos Macaulay Library. Photo credits L-R: Semipalmated Plover: Terence Alexander/ML385395461; Red-necked Phalarope: Todd Kiraly/ML258854041; Red Phalarope: Chiushan Lee/ML304700871; Wilson's Phalarope: Horacio Luna/ML282457561; Killdeer: Mason Maron/ML287345321; Wilson's Snipe: Diane St-Jacques/ML244247091; American Woodcock: Theresa Brown/ML313744021; Short-billed Dowitcher: Iris Kilpatrick/ML378569361; Long-billed Dowitcher: Evan Lipton/ML299663241; Greater Yellowlegs: Graham Montgomery/ML76923351

# Shorebird Yardstick

Length measured bill to tail

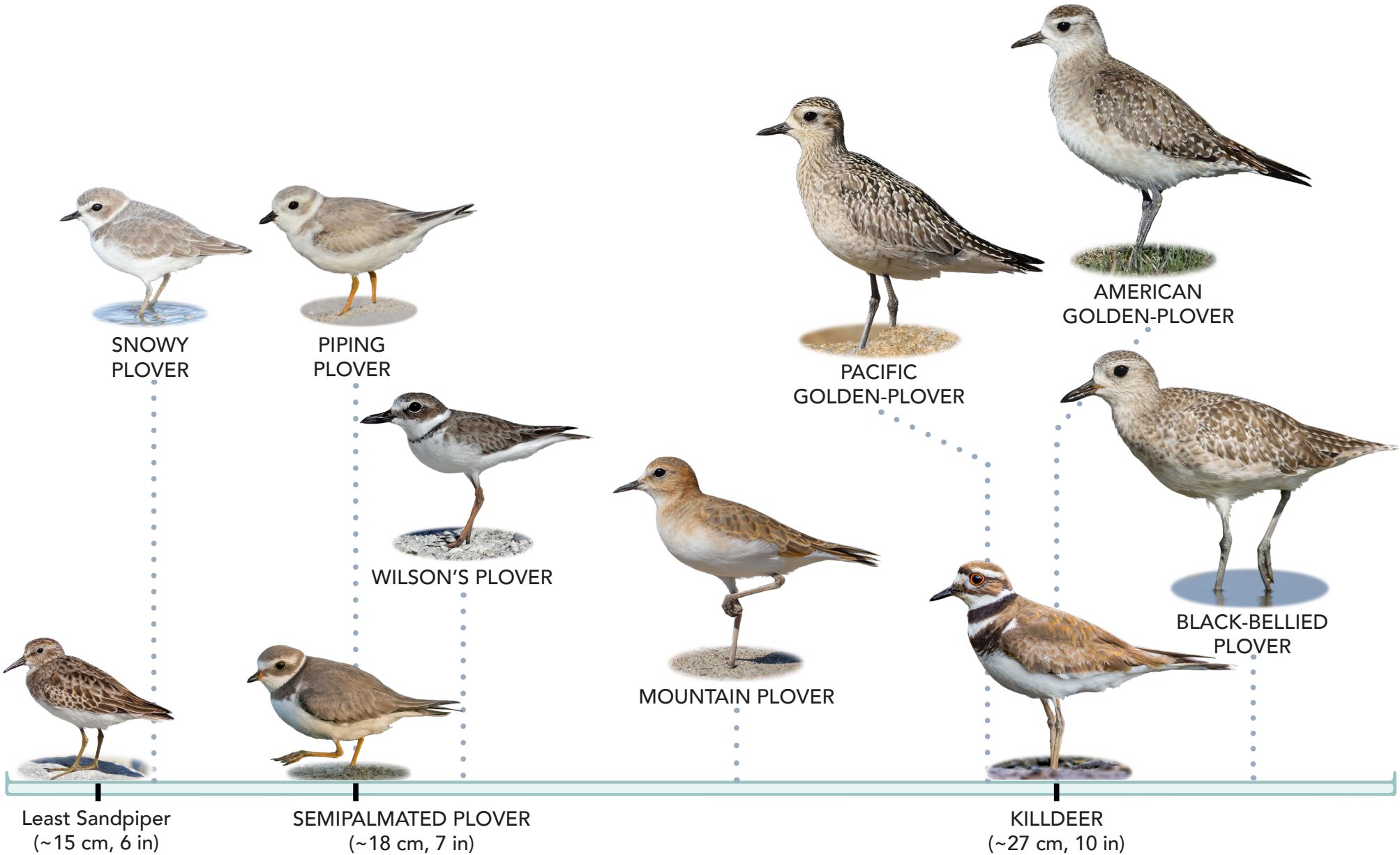


## SMALL OTHERS & MORE PEEPS, NONBREEDING

All photos Macaulay Library. Photo credits L-R: Semipalmated Plover: Terence Alexander/ML385395461; Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Luke Seitz/ML61066581; Purple Sandpiper: Patrick Maurice/ML290252291; Rock Sandpiper: Johnny Bovee/ML37580591; Black Turnstone: Paul Fenwick/ML77396121; Ruddy Turnstone: Marky Mutchler/ML121044551; Surfbird: Sasha Cahill/ML380441651; Killdeer: Mason Maron/ML287345321; Upland Sandpiper: Jeff Stacey/ML59671741; Greater Yellowlegs: Graham Montgomery/ML76923351

# Shorebird Yardstick

Length measured bill to tail



## PLOVERS, NONBREEDING

# Shorebird Yardstick

Length measured bill to tail



BLACK-NECKED  
STILT



WHIMBREL



MARBLED GODWIT



BLACK  
OYSTERCATCHER



AMERICAN AVOCET



LONG-BILLED CURLEW



HUDSONIAN  
GODWIT



AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER  
(~44 cm, 17 in)



Greater Yellowlegs  
(~36 cm, 14 in)

## CURLEWS, GODWITS & LARGE OTHERS, NONBREEDING